

Summary of DAT Conference Call, 3/23/2009

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Highlights and Recommendations

Winter run loss dropped off rapidly since 3/18/09. We are now seeing the start of the young-of-the-year loss. The season to date winter run length loss is 1,437, well below the 1% level of concern of 6,178.

Temperature conditions are appropriate for delta smelt spawning and we expect to see evidence of spawning soon.

After the DAT and WOMT meetings, I found that we had exceeded one of the Salmon Decision Tree criteria on 3/15 2009. We exceeded the loss density criteria, which is 6 this year, with a loss density of 9. The recommended action is to reduce exports to combined 6,000 cfs, and exports that day were 7,500 cfs. The loss was zero the day before, 3/14, and decreased to 4.37 on 3/16. I notified WOMT on 3/18. NMFS reviewed the information and determined the exceedance was slight and lasted one day and therefore no operational action was recommended.

There were a couple of other days in March for which we exceeded the loss density criteria, but the projects were below the recommended export reduction action.

Due to the Caesar Chavez Holiday on 3/31/09, there will be no DAT call next week. I will distribute information as it becomes available. Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 4/7/2009, 9:00 am - 11:00 pm. 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam –

Juvenile winter run length passage averaged 208/day for the past week.

Young of the year passage averaged 7,599/day.

Ad-clipped passage averaged 8/day.

Steelhead passage averaged 38/day, and ad-clipped steelhead passage averaged 18/day.

Red Bluff flow averaged about 6,361 cfs. The water is clear.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php

Mill Creek – The trap was not in operation last week; the live-car is being repaired. Flows were stable around 300 cfs.

Deer Creek – The trap was back in operation. DFG caught 70 fry Chinook, and no steelhead. Flows were stable around 300 cfs – 400 cfs.

Butte Creek – no report

GCID –

Knights Landing – Catch increased significantly to 762 fry/smolts per 1-trap-week and 3.6 older juveniles per 1-trap-week. Steelhead catch was 3 per 1-trap-week. They caught 1 ad-clipped Chinook and 1.5 ad-clipped steelhead per 1-trap-week. Flow ranged from 9,000 to 12,000 cfs.

Delta Monitoring –

FWS caught even more juvenile Chinook and other species of concern; therefore I am reporting the entire report now.

Lower Sacramento Seine - 1 sample day, 5 samples, 86 young of the year and 1 older Chinook, and 3 splittail.

Sacramento Kodiak Trawl - 3 sample days, 29 samples, 2 young of the year Chinook, and no other species of concern.

North Delta Seine - 1 sample day, 9 samples, 102 young of the year Chinook, 1 ad-clipped Chinook.

Central Delta Seine - 1 sample day, 8 samples, 22 young of the year Chinook. No other species of concern.

South Delta Seine - 1 sample day, 5 samples, no other species of concern.

San Joaquin Seine - 1 sample day, 5 samples, No species of concern.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl - 3 sample days, 30 samples, No species of concern.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl - 3 sample days, 39 samples, 3 older juvenile Chinook, 1 ad-clipped rainbow trout, 3 splittail, 11 longfin smelt.

Bay West Seine, 1 day, 4 samples, No species of concern.

Bay East Seine, not sampled.

Smelt Monitoring

The first 20 mm survey, which supplants the larval survey was completed last week. All 45 stations were sampled, 39 stations are completely processed, 6 stations are processed at least one tow. 1,551 longfin smelt were caught at 30 stations. Their lengths ranged from 5 mm - 42 mm and averaged 12 mm. No larval delta smelt, but there were 2 adult delta smelt at stations 706 and 519.

Survey 2 is being conducted this week.

http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/CPUE_map.asp?syear=2009

Spring Kodiak Survey #3 was completed last week. All 40 stations were sampled, and all data is posted. There were 64 adult delta smelt at 9 stations. Average length was 67 mm. There were 10 males; stage ranged from 3 – 5 and 3 was most common. There were 53 females; stage ranged from 2 – 3 and stage 2 was most common. There were 2 additional delta smelt with undetermined sex.

There were 17 adult longfin smelt at 3 stations; 606, 609, and 501.

http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/sls/CPUE_map.asp

Salvage Facilities

Chinook – Non-clipped winter run length loss at the CVP was 11, and at the SWP was 56. Season non-clipped winter run length loss is 1,437 and Livingston Stone hatchery winter run loss is 0.

Steelhead – Non-clipped steelhead salvage was 76 at the CVP and 58 at the SWP. Ad-clipped salvage was 32 at the CVP and 38 at the SWP. Season total salvage is non-clipped 254 and ad-clipped 786.

Delta smelt – No delta smelt this week. The season total salvage of adult delta smelt is 24. Larval sampling is occurring at the SWP and CVP, but none found.

Splittail – Salvage was 204 at the SWP and 15 at the CVP last week. The season total is 323.

Longfin smelt – 4 adult longfin smelt were salvaged at the CVP and none at the SWP. The season total is 12. Larval longfin smelt were salvaged at the CVP on the 16th, and at the SWP on the 4th.

Green Sturgeon – None this season.

White Sturgeon – None this season.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site. <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 2,500 cfs

Oroville - 800 cfs

X2 = 69 km

E/I – 14-day 27.6%

San Luis - ~584 taf, capacity is 1.062 taf

Delta in "Excess Conditions" due to fish concerns.

CVP -

Jones PP – 1,800 cfs

DCC - closed

Trinity – 300 cfs

Clear Creek – 200 cfs

Keswick – 3,250 cfs

Nimbus – 1,200 cfs, increasing to 1,500 on Thurs.

Goodwin – 450 cfs

San Luis - 410 taf. Capacity is 966 taf

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 12,800 cfs

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 1,300 cfs

Delta Outflow ~ 9,800 cfs, 3-day average ~ 9,000 cfs.

OMR 14-day average -4,788 cfs, 5-day average is

-4,786 cfs

Delta Water Quality

Temperature monitoring – Antioch = 13.7 C, Rio Vista = 14.1 C, and Mossdale = 15.4 C. The three station average = 14.4 C. The criterion is 12 C.

Turbidity not applicable any longer because water temp is controlling, but

The three-day average turbidity at the three stations are: Prisoner's Point 11.94 NTU, Holland Cut 17.33 NTU, Victoria Canal 5.61 NTU.

March Water Quality Standards –

Habitat Protection - Meeting Collinsville and Chipps Island objectives for the entire month of March.

Vernalis Base Flow - Minimum monthly average flow
=> 1,140 cfs, 7-day average => 912 cfs

Delta Cross Channel – Closed

E/I Ratio – 35%

Contra Costa Canal – CI <= 250 mg/L. In addition, CI <= 150 mg/L for 165 days per calendar year based on Dry Year Classification.

South Delta – 30-day average EC <= 1.0 mS/cm.

Western Suisun Marsh - <=15.6 mS/cm.

Final copies of the DAT notes are now available on the CALFED Operations website at
<http://www.woco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/datsummaries.html>.